

**September 1, 2010**

**WASHINGTON, DC** -U.S. Rep. Michael Arcuri (NY-24) announced today that 5 communities in Upstate New York have been awarded a total of \$600,000 in new Drug Free Communities (DFC) Support Program grants in support of their work to prevent and reduce substance abuse among youth in the communities they serve. Grants were awarded to Cortland Area Communities that Care Coalition (Cortland County), Community Coalition for Healthy Youth (Tompkins County), Partnership for Ontario County, Inc. (Ontario County), Partnership for Results, Inc. (Cayuga County), and KYDS Coalition (Broome County).

"As a former District Attorney, I know that communities receiving DFC grants have lower rates of youth substance abuse and are able to effectively reduce drug use across the board faster," **Arcuri said**

. "With this funding, these agencies can effectively engage their communities in an effort to combat drug use among our youth and protect the future of our communities by fighting drug abuse early on in life. I look forward to continuing to work with these organizations over the coming years as they continue to save lives and better our communities."

The Drug Free Communities program is directed by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), in partnership with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The DFC program provides grants up to \$625,000 over five years to community coalitions that facilitate citizen participation in local drug prevention efforts.

These organizations were five of 169 new grantees selected from 521 applications through a competitive, peer-reviewed process. To qualify for matching grants, all awardees must have at least a six-month history of working together on substance abuse reduction initiatives, have representation from 12 specific sectors of the community, develop a long-term plan to reduce substance abuse, and participate in the national evaluation of the DFC program.

Grant awards are as follows:

- \$125,000 for the KYDS Coalition-Broome County;
- \$100,000 for the Partnership for Results, Inc.-Cayuga County;
- \$125,000 for the Cortland Area Communities that Care Coalition-Cortland County;
- \$125,000 for the Partnership for Ontario County, Inc.-Ontario County; and,
- \$125,000 for the Community Coalition for Healthy Youth-Tompkins County.

The DFC program was created by the Drug Free Communities Act of 1997, and was reauthorized by Congress in 2001 and 2006. Since 1998, ONDCP has awarded approximately 1,500 Drug-Free Communities grants to local communities in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, Palau, American Samoa and the US Virgin Islands.

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